



**REPRESENTATIVE
DAN ROACH
31ST DISTRICT**

COMMITTEES:

- Insurance, Financial Services & Consumer Protection
(*Ranking Member*)
- Education
- Finance
- Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee
- Legislative Committee on Economic Development & International Relations

DISTRICT PHONE:

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OLYMPIA PHONE:

(360) 786-7846 (during session only)

LEGISLATIVE

TOLL-FREE HOTLINE:

1-800-562-6000

TDD HOTLINE FOR

THE HEARING IMPAIRED:

1-800-635-9993

ABOUT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE

Currently serving his fourth term, Rep. Dan Roach, R-Bonney Lake, was elected to the House of Representatives in 2000.

If you would like to learn more about Rep. Roach, visit his website at:
<http://www.houseRepublicans.wa.gov/Roach>

**REP. DAN ROACH WAS
PLEASED TO HOST STUDENTS
OF SUMNER CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL WHO TOURED THE
STATE CAPITOL.**

REP. DAN ROACH

31ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

2007 SESSION REVIEW

Dear Neighbors:

The 2007 session of the state Legislature has come and gone. It is a pleasure to serve you in Olympia, but it is even better to get out of town and return home!

We were able to accomplish some good things this year, but we also left a great deal of work undone. "Study" seemed to be the key word this year. Rather than making some hard choices on difficult issues, many of those matters were deferred until another time and sent to committees for further study.

Perhaps most disappointing, however, was the failure of the Legislature to provide property tax relief to hard-hit homeowners. My bill, and others similar to it, would have restored the voter-approved provisions of I-747 by holding property tax increases to just one percent each year. They never reached the House floor for a vote. We should have done better for taxpayers.

As always, I look forward to hearing your thoughts and concerns. I am here to help.

Sincerely,

Dan Roach



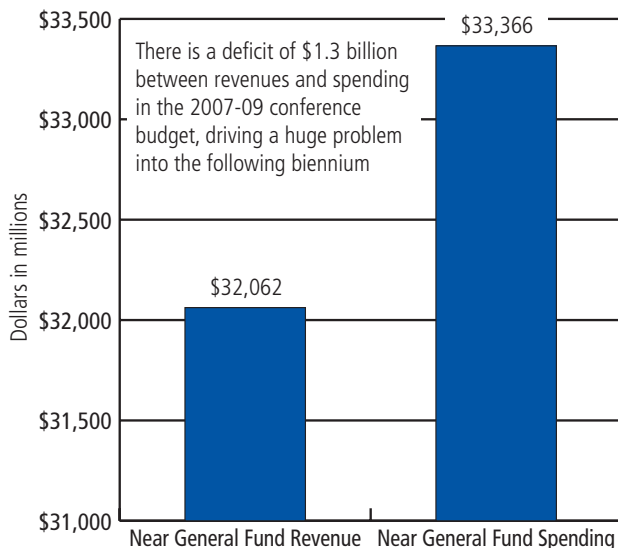
REP. DAN ROACH

2007 SESSION REVIEW

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET SETS STAGE FOR FUTURE PROBLEM

Washington is enjoying good economic times and state coffers reflect that. Early in this legislative session we were looking at a budget surplus of about \$2.2 billion. It certainly seemed wise at the time to offer some tax relief while also setting aside a pot of money that would be available during the next economic downturn.

THE 2007 - 09 BUDGET GAP



Instead, the budget for this biennium sets the stage for a deficit well in excess of \$1 billion – even if the good economic times in our state continue! The problems will be even greater should we enter a recession and state revenues drop while social needs rise.

Don't misunderstand. The budget funds some very good programs. We have added money for education and expanded health care, for example. What concerns me, however, is that spending in this biennium will be about 15.4 percent higher than in the last budget. In fact, the budget will have risen 30 percent within just four years!

Think of it in terms of your own family's budget. Has your income or your own personal spending gone up that much? Obviously, if your income is not keeping pace with spending habits, you are going to have trouble down the road.

As the chart shows, the budget approved by the Legislature anticipates spending about \$1.3 billion more than the state will have coming in. Revenue forecasts have improved a little since then, but not enough to solve our coming problems.

LEGISLATURE FAILS TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON PROPERTY TAX CUTS

Voters approved Initiative 747 in 2001, capping property tax increases at one percent a year. Opponents of I-747 challenged it in the courts and, last year, a judge threw the initiative out on a technicality. The case is in front of the Washington State Supreme Court.

After the ruling, legislative leaders talked time and time again about the need to provide property tax relief to homeowners. There was broad recognition that many people, particularly seniors on fixed incomes and low income families, might be at risk of losing their homes if nothing was done.

I introduced House Bill 2403 to restore the tax limits the voters approved. You had spoken very clearly in 2001 when I-747 was approved by a 58-42 percent margin. Several similar bills were offered, but none of them were allowed to come to the House floor for a vote.

It is unfortunate that promises made were not kept. Depending on the Supreme Court's ruling later this year, I intend to be back next session trying to restore what the voters intended.



**31ST
LEGISLATIVE
DISTRICT**

REP. DAN ROACH

31ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

ID THEFT BILL BECOMES LAW

Three years ago, I sponsored legislation allowing any resident of Washington to “freeze” their credit reports as part of a larger effort to protect people from identity theft. Sometimes these issues take time to percolate through the process, but we finally got the job done this year with a bill I was happy to support. It was signed into law on May 15.



Under previous law, only actual victims of identity theft could freeze their credit reports and they had to go through a fairly laborious process to get that done. The

other problem was that an individual who wanted to unfreeze their reports – for example, if they were applying for a mortgage or some other large loan – had to wait several days for that to happen.

Under the new law, anyone will be able to freeze their credit reports and credit rating reporting companies will have to unfreeze them within 15 minutes of receiving an electronic request.

The changes benefit all consumers and also make it possible for business transactions to be conducted more quickly.

I also sponsored a separate package of ID theft bills which focus primarily on strengthening penalties and putting perpetrators behind bars.

AUBURN TEACHER HONORED

Auburn Riverside High School teacher Geri Rohlff didn't know what was coming but, at a surprise event at the school this spring, she learned that she was one of just five teachers nationwide to be inducted into the National Teachers Hall of Fame this year in Emporia, Kansas. Only 75 teachers have been inducted since the Hall of Fame opened in 1992.

Rohlff was inducted during ceremonies in June. She is a 31-year teaching veteran, 17 of them in Auburn.

I sponsored a resolution that passed the House of Representatives right before adjourning for the legislative year honoring Rohlff's career and accomplishments. The story of her career will be on display permanently at the National Teachers Hall of Fame gallery in Emporia.

HONORING OUR VETERANS AND FALLEN HEROES

Following a series of demonstrations at military funerals last year by a radical group, I introduced legislation prohibiting demonstrators from being any closer than 500 feet from a funeral. It seemed the least we could do to honor our fallen heroes and their families.

After a mix up in the Senate, that bill died last session, but it was reintroduced and was the first to be signed into law by the governor this year.

I'll be back next session to seek approval of a bill authorizing the state to grant high school diplomas to Vietnam era veterans who left school early to join the armed forces. The House passed the bill unanimously this year but, once again, it didn't come up for a vote in the Senate.

State law already provides for high school diplomas to be granted to World War II and Korean War veterans.

PROOF OF RESIDENCE TO BE REQUIRED FOR FIRST-TIME DRIVER'S LICENSES

The Washington Department of Licensing (DOL) is going to require that all people seeking a state driver's license for the first time show proof they live in the state. The department also will not mail licenses to out of state addresses except to military personnel and in specific other cases.

The new requirements are similar to the provisions of a bill I introduced this session, but are not as strong as they should be.

It is because licenses have been so easy to get in this state that the federal government is threatening not to recognize them as valid identification for persons boarding airplanes or entering federal buildings.

Federal air marshals visited my office earlier this year following a series of incidents at Sea-Tac Airport. They said the lax Washington licensing process is a serious breach of security being utilized by terrorists. I introduced House Bill 2367 to tighten the requirements. The bill enjoyed bipartisan support and made it to the House floor, but no vote was allowed.

While I congratulate DOL for taking these administrative steps, I believe we still need a law that can be enforced, and this will be one of my priorities next year.

REP. DAN ROACH

2007 SESSION REVIEW

GAS PRICES REMAIN HIGH AND THE STATE IS INVESTIGATING

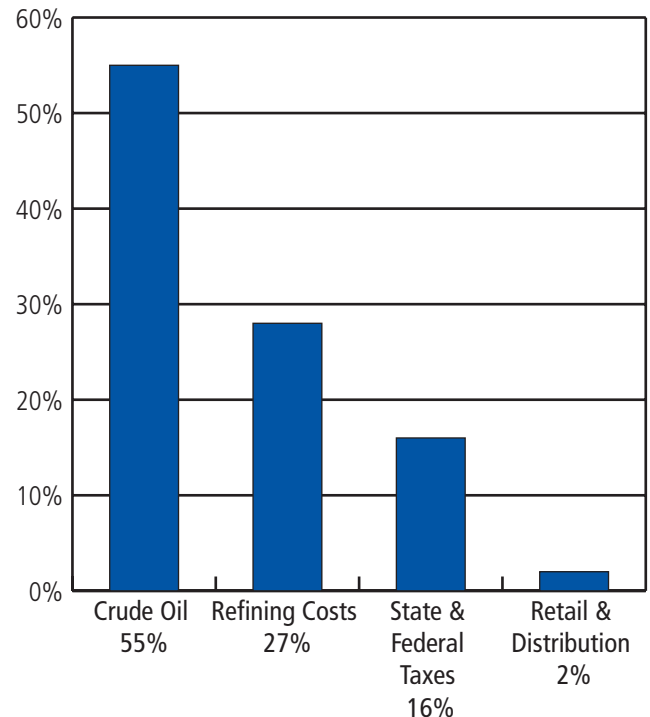
All of us are being hit hard by high gas prices. The cost of gas in Washington is among the highest in the country. The dramatic price spikes this spring were disturbing, to say the least.

That is why the state is conducting an investigation into the situation. Attorney General Rob McKenna announced the plan in April. A preliminary report is due this summer and the final report some time later in the year.

Suspicion of the major oil companies and others is nothing new, but federal and state taxes also play a role in the price of gas. At 54.5 cents per gallon (federal and state), Washington drivers pay the fourth highest gas taxes in the country.

AAA updates prices on a regular basis and you can visit their website at <http://www.fuelgaugereport.com/WAavg.asp> to get the latest information. You also can find the lowest prices close to your neighborhood by visiting <http://www.washingtongasprices.com/> and looking up your city or town.

WHERE GAS MONEY GOES



I'M HERE TO HELP!

I'm here to serve as well as represent you. Should you ever have questions, comments, suggestions or ideas about legislation or state government, let me know.

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